



**NORTHERN
MIDLANDS
COUNCIL**

MINUTES

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

MONDAY, 11 DECEMBER 2023



MINUTES of the Annual General Meeting of the Northern Midlands Council held on 11 December 2023 at 5.00pm in person at the Council Chambers, 13 Smith Street, Longford

1 ATTENDANCE

PRESENT

Mayor Mary Knowles OAM, Deputy Mayor Janet Lambert, Cr Dick Adams OAM, Cr Alison Andrews AM, Cr Richard Archer, Cr Matthew Brooks, Cr Richard Goss, Cr Paul Terrett

In Attendance

Mr Des Jennings - General Manager, Miss Maree Bricknell - Corporate Services Manager, Mr Leigh McCullagh - Works Manager, Mrs Erin Miles - Project Officer, Mr Neil Shephard - Consultant Planner, Ms Victoria Veldhuizen - Executive Officer, Mrs Gail Eacher - Executive Assistant

APOLOGIES

Nil



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3 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We acknowledge and pay our respects to the Tasmanian Aboriginal Community as the traditional and original owners, and continuing custodians of this land on which we gather today and acknowledge Elders – past, present and emerging.

4 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

A welcome and opening address by Mayor Knowles.

Mayor Knowles read from the following statement:

While our communities continue to grow Council again focused on key identified infrastructure projects in 2022/2023 including the re-roofing of Evandale Town Hall, upgrades to the Cressy Memorial Swimming Pool, completion of the Cressy Recreation Ground alfresco barbeque shelter.

One of the many highlights was the opening of the new \$3.8m Perth Early Learning Centre which was completed in March 2023. The purpose-built centre provides for 46 long day care places and 40 after school care places, for children from Perth, Evandale, Devon Hills, Longford, Cressy, Bishopsbourne, and the surrounding rural properties. That's 86 places in total.

Featuring four specialised rooms (0 years to 18months; 18months to 3 years; 3 years to 5 years; and before school, after school and vacation care 5 years to 12 years), the facility also boasts a separate meeting room, staff room, laundry, and kitchen. The Centre was federally funded through the Community Development Grant Program (\$2.6m), and a Local Roads, Community Infrastructure Grant (\$1.1m), and provides local families with more spaces for childcare, enabling the return of the Perth Community Centre for usage by the community.

The \$1,577m Cressy War Memorial Pool redevelopment included: a new pool complex entrance directly from Main Street, a renovated and modernised kiosk/office and storage area, a new raised, shaded, and sheltered sun deck, new shade shelter over the toddler's pool, upgrades to the concourse and underground pipework surrounding the pool including building the concourse to create a flush entry to the pool rather than a "step up and in" and sealing, line marking and landscaping of the complex carpark.

It was initially envisaged that it would take several years to complete the scope of work required but Council officers were able to achieve this over three years thanks to funding availability. Following the completion of the upgrade at the Cressy War Memorial Swimming Pool, Council maintained a full season of lifeguards and the Committee again did a fantastic job throughout the season ensuring users enjoyed this facility to the fullest.

While relatively small, the Cressy Recreation Ground is important and is an integral component of our sport and recreation infrastructure, serving as the town's main sport and recreation precinct. A year-round all-inclusive facility, the redevelopment included: kitchen/kiosk infrastructure upgrades; new clubroom furniture; new clubroom verandah; new roof and repainting inside and out and a new undercover spectator viewing area.

With Northern Tasmania's economy being well positioned to grow and take advantage of the strong demand for our agricultural exports, foods, manufactured products, and tourism experiences, critical to this growth is the development and maintenance of the TRANSlink industrial and logistic precinct which is able to support trade flows to and from our trading partners in Australia and overseas.

The TRANSlink Precinct Renewal Program aims to achieve sufficient stormwater capacity in the precinct to deal with the run-off from a 1 in 100-year storm event; to this end the commissioning of the Gatty Street detention basin in Western Junction during April is a small but critical piece of that infrastructure.

During the reporting period the Tasmanian Government announced the introduction of a levy on all waste sent to landfill across Tasmania, Council subsequently chose to commence a kerbside Food Organics, and Garden Organics (FOGO) collection service to divert waste away from landfill thus reducing costs to Northern Midlands residents in the longer term. The program was rolled out in January 2023 and Council successfully diverted 488 tonnes of green waste from landfill to the end of June 2023.

Moving beyond the infrastructure programs, Council has prepared the following draft community strategies and has commenced consultation on some of the strategies.

- *Communications and Engagement*
- *Arts and Culture*
- *Economic Development*



- *Health and Wellbeing*
- *Youth Strategy*
- *Domestic and Family Violence Strategy*

Community feedback is now being incorporated into the draft strategies for Council's consideration.

In March 2023, the Future of Local Government Review Board released the Future of Local Government Review Stage 2 – Interim Report. The Review's objectives are to create a more robust and capable system of local government, ready for the challenges and opportunities of the future and to make recommendations on the future role, functions, and design of local government. The Review argues that change is necessary because some councils are unable to provide services, maintain current infrastructure, attract necessary qualified staff and/or meet the needs of their communities now and into future. The Review presented several community catchment area scenarios for amalgamation, as a rationale for achieving economies of scale, "leading a successful and sustainable future system of local government in Tasmania". It is Council's view Northern Midlands residents would be severely disadvantaged under all Community Catchment scenarios presented in the Future of Local Government Review.

Northern Midlands Council continues to meet with State Government representatives and strongly encourages all residents to have a say on our future and provide your Councillors and the State Government with a clear view of your preference for the future of the Northern Midlands municipality.

I am pleased the government confirmed its commitment to no forced amalgamations which means the Northern Midlands Council can continue to maintain and strengthen its strong association with its community and retain the necessary balanced industry, small business, residential and rural ratepayer base which has put the municipality in such an enviable position while minimising cost of living pressures through rates on residents.

Choosing the right region or neighbourhood for your lifestyle is one of the most important decisions anyone can make, and the Northern Midlands offers the perfect blend of work and leisure with close-knit communities that value work-life balance and wellbeing, along with a diverse range of activities for every traveller. With that in mind, Northern Midlands Council has substantially progressed a marketing campaign known as "Choose the Scenic Route". Building on the substantial growth that has already occurred and set to launch in August 2023, the aim of the campaign is to attract people to the region, converting visitors to residents, and highlighting the lifestyle benefits of choosing the "Scenic Route".

I have continued to work closely with the State Government and agencies on the issue of family and domestic violence, with a focus on providing housing for women and their children who are forced into homelessness.

Council has made significant progress through the year, and I would like to thank our Management and staff for their ongoing dedication in achieving such great outcomes while continuing to support our communities.

I would also like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank my fellow Councillors for their commitment and ongoing support throughout the past year enabling the Northern Midlands to continue to be a leader in growth and development.

5 DECLARATIONS OF ANY PECUNIARY INTEREST OF A COUNCILLOR OR CLOSE ASSOCIATE

No declarations of interest were received.

As per the *Local Government Act 1993, Part 5 - Pecuniary Interests, section 48:*

- (1) *A councillor must not participate at any meeting of a council, council committee, special committee, controlling authority, single authority or joint authority in any discussion, nor vote on any matter, in respect of which the councillor–*
 - (a) has an interest; or*
 - (b) is aware or ought to be aware that a close associate has an interest.*
- (2) *A councillor must declare any interest that the councillor has in a matter before any discussion on that matter commences.*



6 PROCEDURAL

6.1 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

6.1.1 Confirmation Of Minutes: Annual General Meeting

MINUTE NO. 23/0439

DECISION

Cr Adams/Cr Brooks

That the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Northern Midlands Council held at the Council Chambers, Longford on Monday, 12 December 2022 be confirmed as a true record of proceedings.

Carried Unanimously

RECOMMENDATION

That the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Northern Midlands Council held at the Council Chambers, Longford on Monday, 12 December 2022 be confirmed as a true record of proceedings.

ATTACHMENTS

2022-12-12 Annual General Meeting Minutes

6.2 PUBLIC SUBMISSIONS: ANNUAL REPORT

The Annual Report for the 2022/2023 financial year was circulated by the General Manager.

The notice of the Annual General Meeting together with the Annual Report was advertised in the Examiner Newspaper on Saturday, 25 November 2023 and Wednesday, 29 November 2023. The community were invited to submit comments on the Annual Report for discussion at the Annual General Meeting.

No submissions were received.

6.3 QUESTIONS

6.3.1 Questions On Notice

No questions on notice received.

6.3.2 Questions Without Notice

Questions not on notice welcomed by Mayor Knowles, to be conducted in accordance with the following guidelines:

- A person seeking to ask a question must firstly identify himself or herself by stating their name and the town they reside in.
- If more than one person wishes to ask a question, the Mayor is to determine the order in which those questions are asked



- Questions must be directed to the Mayor (Chair) who shall answer or direct the question to the appropriate Councillor or Council Officer. A question will be answered if the information is known otherwise taken on notice and responded to in writing as soon as possible.
- A person is entitled to ask no more than 2 questions on any specific subject. If a person has up to two questions on several subjects, the Mayor may defer those questions until other questions have been asked and refer back to that person only if time permits.
- Each speaker is limited to a maximum of 3 minutes.

No questions without notice received.

7 CLOSURE

MINUTE NO. 23/0440

DECISION

Deputy Mayor Lambert/Cr Brooks
That the meeting close.

Carried Unanimously

Mayor Knowles closed the meeting at 5.11pm.

MAYOR _____

DATE: _____